



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: Aug 26, 2002, 1:00 p.m.  
Week Ending: August 25, 2002  
CWP Vol 02 No 24 WA-CW3402

## Rain Showers Interrupt Grain Harvest in Whitman County Pear and Apple Harvest Active in Douglas and Chelan

### Field Crops

Grain harvest in Whitman County was interrupted by over an inch of rain that was received in the Colfax area midweek. While harvest neared completion in the eastern portion of the county, growers prepared to seed winter wheat near the western edge of the county. In Kittitas County, the second cutting of timothy hay was underway. In western Washington, corn crops were looking good and sweet corn signs were out at many roadside stands.

### Livestock

Livestock producers in Asotin and Garfield Counties were moving cattle from rangeland to stubble. Pasture and hayfields without irrigation continued to be dry due to little precipitation this last month. Range and pasture conditions were 4% very poor, 36% poor, 47% fair and 13% good.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Bartlett pear and Gala apple harvest was active in the lower elevation orchards of Douglas and Chelan Counties. Apple and pear sizes were smaller than normal due to the cool weather early in the growing season. Cherry harvest finished in Douglas and Chelan with good quality being reported. In Yakima County, producers of tomatoes, pumpkins, squash, and other vegetable crops continued to have crop reductions due to disease.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.6
Last Week	7.0

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	16	44	40	0
Subsoil	7	38	55	0
Irrigation Water	1	10	89	0
Hay & Roughage	0	5	94	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Harvested	75	55	68	71
Winter Wheat Harvested	93	70	93	89
Barley Harvested	64	39	62	69
Potatoes Harvested	32	26	22	22
Corn Silage Harvested	5	4	4	6
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	10	0	9	7
Dry Peas Harvested	67	49	75	74
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	77	57	75	73

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	14	57	28	1
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	94	6
Barley Dryland	1	12	58	28	1
Barley Irrigated	0	5	20	75	0
Potatoes	0	0	14	82	4
Corn	0	0	4	96	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	2	18	78	2

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** Warm, sunny conditions continued to prevail throughout the week, resulting in nearly ideal conditions for crop growth where irrigation was available. Pastures and hayfields without irrigation continued to be very dry due to the lack of any measurable rainfall during the past month. The sweet corn crop continued to look very good. Christmas tree growers continued to top work Noble fir.

**Pierce/South King:** Crop conditions remained favorable for the area. No unusual weather conditions were reported. There were no reports of crop damage due to weather conditions.

**Snohomish/North King:** Weather has been normal but drier than most years. Fruit trees were ripening fast and dropping fruit. Corn crops were looking good and sweet corn signs were out at many roadside stands. Cane berry harvest continued. Grass hay harvest was winding down. Pastures were very dry.

**Thurston:** Another week with no rain continued to exacerbate drought conditions throughout the county. There have been numerous grass fires due to the extremely dry conditions. Crops under irrigation continued to do well. Christmas tree growers started shearing Douglas and Fraser fir trees. The lack of rain helped home gardeners enormously in reducing infections of late blight fungus on potatoes and tomatoes.

## Central

**Benton:** Early apple harvest began. Stone fruit harvest continued. Some sunburning of fruit was reported. Hot, dry conditions continued.

**Douglas/Chelan:** Bartlett pear and Gala apple harvest was active in the lower elevation orchards. A violent windstorm on August 16 caused widespread tree fruit loss in the northern half of Okanogan County. Preliminary estimates of fruit dropped to the ground: apples; 750,000 packed boxes and 6,000 tons of processing grade, pears; 250,000 packed boxes. Value of this fruit was about \$14.5 million. The value lost does not include the damaged and culled fruit on the trees. This fruit loss could easily surpass the wind drop estimate. Juice (cider grade) apples are worth \$20/bin, fresh packed apples are worth \$100-200/bin to the grower.

**Douglas/Chelan (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Some much needed precipitation of 0.7" was received at Waterville. Wheat harvest was winding down with yields reported at average and below. Seeding begun for 2003 winter wheat crop and canola. Cherry harvest completed last week with good quality being reported. Tonnage declined from prior years due to poor pollinizing weather and freezing in April and May. Harvest began for early apple varieties. The

crop was expected to be about the same size as last year. Apple sizes were expected to be smaller than normal due to early cold weather. Production of Fuji apples was higher than normal; therefore, a higher volume of lower quality fruit is expected to be diverted. The pear crop was expected to be average. The size was down because of the cool weather. Harvest was expected to begin within the next week in the lower valleys.

**Franklin:** Warm, dry weather conditions continued throughout the week. Potato, onion, sweet corn, and carrot harvest continued. Wheat and barley harvest also continued. The third cutting of alfalfa was nearly complete. Virus problems were apparent in cucurbit fields.

**Kittitas:** The second cutting of timothy hay was underway. Sweet corn harvest to start this week.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from 5 degrees below normal to 4 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. Producers of tomatoes, pumpkins, squash, and other vegetable crops continued to have crop reductions due to disease conditions.

## Eastern

**Adams:** Harvest was completed and winter wheat seeding was about 30 percent complete. Planting conditions were reported as mostly adequate.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain showers during the week slowed harvest as producers waited for grain to dry before continuing to cut crops. Harvest was winding down, with approximately 90 percent of the crop cut, with only the later areas remaining to be harvested. Yields were improving as producers harvested in the higher rainfall areas. Livestock producers were moving cattle from rangeland to stubble. Rangeland continued to be in poor condition in many areas due to continued dry conditions. Some areas were suffering from their third or fourth dry year in a row.

**Lincoln:** Harvest was nearly complete except for the far northern edge of the county. Winter wheat seeding began on the southern edge of the county.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Rain during the week caused a slowdown to harvesting. Some areas of the county got about 0.1" and at the airport there was a record rainfall of 1.18". Some harvests started back up during the weekend. Most producers finished up winter wheat and worked on barley and spring wheat. A few of the spring grains were still not ripe and will have to wait to be cut. The second cutting of hay was nearly complete. Range conditions were dry with some supplemental feeding taking place.

**Stevens:** Spotty rain showers were received a few times during the week, but in most areas they were not of long enough duration to do much good. Grain harvest continued.

**Walla Walla:** There were cooler evenings and higher winds during the week. Thunderstorms on Thursday morning slowed those who were still harvesting.

**Whitman:** Harvest progressed well during the week, interrupted briefly by scattered showers. While harvest neared completion in the eastern portion of the county, growers were preparing to seed winter wheat near the western edge of the county. Livestock grazing conditions varied from poor to fair in most of the county.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Harvest was interrupted by over an inch of rain that was received in the Colfax area midweek. Combines were slow to get rolling, following the aftermath of an unusual low pressure system that was situated over northern Idaho. The system sent bands of moisture into the Palouse for several days. Yield reports on both spring and fall crops continued to be average and below. Extreme heat in July and several frosts in the spring seemed to have impacted yields. Dry conditions should allow for the completion of harvest in the next week for most producers in the county.

**Weekly Weather Statistics**  
**Aug 26, 2002**

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Everett	50	78	61	-3	78	-13	11	-17	0.00	-0.35	0	31.13	-5.04	86	165
Hoquiam	50	66	57	-5	54	-30	0	-21	0.00	-0.38	0	63.76	-3.75	94	179
Kelso	48	81	64	0	100	2	30	-5	0.00	-0.37	0	40.70	-5.48	88	154
Olympia	43	86	62	-1	86	-5	18	-10	0.00	-0.34	0	58.86	8.59	117	170
Seattle-Tacoma	51	82	63	-3	92	-13	22	-19	0.00	-0.28	0	38.25	1.35	104	153
Shelton	48	83	63	-3	91	-13	22	-20	0.00	-0.31	0	68.55	4.01	106	161
Tacoma	47	82	63	-1	95	-5	25	-10	0.00	-0.35	0	30.09	-9.87	75	130
Vancouver	53	86	67	3	117	15	47	12	0.00	-0.31	0	37.45	-3.55	91	154
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	50	88	68	1	125	8	55	2	0.00	-0.10	0	7.03	-1.79	80	85
Omak	48	90	72	7	154	41	84	35	0.04	-0.24	1	9.28	-5.58	62	73
Stampede Pass	44	76	57	2	51	4	8	1	0.07	-0.44	1	76.52	-4.00	95	173
Wenatchee	57	87	73	2	161	8	91	7	0.00	-0.13	0	5.42	-2.77	66	64
Yakima AP	46	88	68	0	125	-3	55	-6	0.00	-0.10	0	7.02	-0.83	89	63
NORTHEAST															
Colville	44	95	71	7	148	40	78	33	0.03	-0.25	1	15.52	-5.46	74	85
Deer Park	38	87	64	-4	101	-21	31	-26	0.04	-0.17	1	21.28	2.93	116	122
Spokane AP	48	84	66	-2	116	-7	46	-12	1.18	1.00	1	15.08	-1.23	92	112
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	50	89	70	-4	141	-21	71	-21	0.00	-0.07	0	5.77	-1.40	80	64
Moses Lake	48	88	70	-4	140	-22	70	-22	0.00	-0.07	0	5.78	-1.39	81	66
Quincy	51	87	69	-1	136	-1	66	-2	0.00	-0.08	0	6.30	-1.41	82	61
Ritzville	49	85	67	-2	120	-5	50	-9	0.04	-0.10	2	9.97	-1.23	89	80
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	52	92	71	-6	152	-33	82	-33	0.00	-0.07	0	5.64	-0.77	88	51
Pasco	47	93	71	-3	146	-14	76	-14	0.18	0.06	1	6.13	-1.28	83	60
Pullman	40	81	63	-3	93	-15	27	-20	0.36	0.15	2	18.00	-2.91	86	112
Whitman Mission	37	91	66	-4	111	-23	41	-26	0.00	-0.14	0	13.20	-0.41	97	97
IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	41	84	65	-4	106	-25	36	-29	0.00	-0.35	0	21.29	-4.39	83	120
Lewiston ID	51	88	69	-5	135	-25	65	-25	0.22	0.01	2	10.61	-1.64	87	109

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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